

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3110
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Religious Violence
Arunmozhihevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether US lawmakers have written a communication to our Hon'ble Prime Minister on religious violence in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) The Government has seen an open letter written by some US Congressmen to Hon'ble Prime Minister dated February 25, 2016 on religious freedom in India. It is unfortunate that these Members of Congress, while applauding India as a pluralistic society with a longstanding commitment to inclusion and tolerance, have chosen to focus on just a few incidents.

In response to a media question, Official Spokesperson on February 29, 2016 noted that the Constitution of India guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens, including minority communities and aberrations, if any, are dealt with by our internal processes which include our independent judiciary, autonomous National Human Rights Commission, vigilant media, and vibrant civil society. The Government is fully committed to the Constitutional principles which underpin the nation of 1.25 billion people as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.